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DES Environmental Leadership Initiative
Encouraging Superior Environmental Performance Through Management Systems,
Recognition, and Rewards

Minutes of Stakeholder Meeting

Wednesday, May 7, 2008
2:00 – 4:00PM
29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH
Room 112

- Meeting Purpose:**
- a) Presentation on EPA's Performance Track program, with focus on site visits
 - b) Update on *Aspiring Leaders* program.
 - c) Tier 2 – *Green Leaders* – Progress so far.
 - d) Update and discussion on other aspects of grant program.

Attendees:

Kurt Blomquist	City of Keene
Michael Bruss	Bruss Construction
Patti Carrier	NH Ball Bearings, HiTech Div. (Peterborough)
Mary Collins	NH Small Business Development Center
David Guest	US EPA
Bob Minicucci	NH DES (recorder)
Andrea O'Brien	NH Small Business Development Center
Katherine Peters	NH Governor's Office
Dennis Sasseville	PRIZM Consulting
Joshua Secunda	US EPA Reg. 1
Sharon Yergeau	NH DES

Record of the meeting:

A. Presentation on Performance Track

Dave Guest, who works on EPA's Performance Track (www.epa.gov/performance-track) program, gave a presentation on Performance Track (Ptrack), with a focus on the site visits that Ptrack conducts as a quality assurance measure. His PowerPoint presentation is being distributed with these minutes. Dave noted that it's a change for agency people to be visiting a company not to

find out what's wrong, but to identify what they're doing right. Dave strongly recommended that NH also conduct this kind of post-entry visit. Also, Dave had a separate briefing on Ptrack's site visits for DES inspection staff prior to this meeting.

Ptrack site visits are conducted following specific protocols, and site visit lead people are specifically trained. EPA recommends that people interested in being site visit leads have 40-hour ISO lead auditor certification prior to Ptrack's training. Training is conducted at various locations around the country, with the New York/New England area probably next. DES's stakeholder group will be notified of the next such training. Questions can go to Dave at guest.david@epa.gov.

B. Tier 1, *Aspiring Leaders*

Aspiring Leaders is now open for business. We have five members admitted and ten additional applications in hand.

Recruitment and outreach has been done with the people who applied to Business NH Magazine's "Lean & Green" awards and some others. This has been fairly productive. A press release was sent last month after the admission of the five members. The press release was picked up by a couple of newspapers in areas which had members, and also led to a ten-minute interview on WNTK's morning show.

It was noted that past projects were not eligible for use in *Aspiring Leaders*. We also discussed how consultants or other service businesses might qualify – DES had made a decision in talking to an applicant that benefits accruing to *clients* would not qualify, that projects or practices undertaken had to be internal to the applying organization. While that concept was generally agreed to, there was some discussion of the value that can be added by a pro-active consultant. Measurement of such value-added efforts would be difficult.

C. Tier 2 *Green Leaders*

The second tier of DES's Environmental Leadership Initiative now has the working title of *Green Leaders*. As we've discussed, *Green Leaders* would include site visits prior to program entry to verify that the applicant does indeed behave as indicated in their application.

DES is currently discussing internally what the nature of these visits might be. The consensus is that it depends on the applicant. A judgment on what is appropriate would be based on the information available about the applicant, with the application form being the core of that information. DES's hazardous waste staff has recommended that full quantity/large quantity hazardous waste generators get a full inspection.

A draft application form is attached to these minutes for your information and comment. As a transcription on an on-line form (from Ptrack), this form is more elaborate in text-form than it would be in use.

C. Other ELI issues.

A formal request is in the queue for action by the Governor and Executive Council for support of the Small Business Development Council's management training via distance learning for small businesses. We believe this will be on the May 21 Governor & Council agenda.

The matter of influencing MBA programs around the state to address sustainability/triple-bottom-line accounting is going slowly. Minicucci reported that a cold call from an anonymous state bureaucrat like him was probably not the most effective method of outreach here, and that a surrogate may be needed. Collins encouraged Minicucci to use her name as a reference. People at the meeting gave useful contact names for Daniel Webster, Franklin Pierce, and Rivier Colleges. (Note: the day after this meeting, DES received information from Southern NH Univ. that triple-bottom-line accounting is covered in one of the core courses for their MBA program.)

There was some discussion of a third ELI tier, a matter that has not gained much traction. Two suggestions were raised: one was as a standing group to work with the state on holistic environmental issues. These could be pilot facilities to try new methods, and as a source of testimony. It was not immediately clear how this might be different from a “blue-ribbon commission” or state advisory panel, as are convened from time to time. Another third-tier possibility is to establish a separate program for service businesses or consultants.

D. Other Business

On June 18, Southern NH University and the NH Business & Industry Assoc. are holding a conference “Environmental Sustainability: Making It Work for Your Business” at SNHU in Manchester. Information is available at <http://www.nhbia.org/index.php?page=calendar>.

The next meeting of this group is scheduled for August 25, 2008.

Conclusion:

Thank you all very much for your time and interest. Remember, we can come and speak to your group if you think that would be useful. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-271-2941 or at RMINICUCCI@DES.STATE.NH.US.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Minicucci II, PE
Special Projects Manager
Department of Environmental Services